

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, and 5-7 under 35 U. S. C. § 102. The Examiner relied upon Luzzi U. S. Patent 4,955,823 (hereinafter Luzzi) to support this rejection. The Examiner takes the position that

“Luzzi discloses a distribution device (not numbered) for distributing high magnitude electrical potential from an input port (not marked, area 66) of the distribution device to a plurality of output ports (connectors at areas 36 and 292 at the right side of Fig. 5) thereof, utilization devices, the distribution device including a first portion 26, 50 and a second portion 300 adapted for engagement, at least one of the first and second portions including cooperating couplers 156, 154 and 308, 304.”

However, that is not what Luzzi shows, and that is not how Luzzi works. In power transmission, electrical equipment occasionally needs to be taken out of service for maintenance, repair and so on. According to Luzzi, when equipment is taken out of service, there is a need for some visible indication that the equipment has been taken out of service. In Luzzi, the way this is accomplished is by providing an external, visible break in the circuit coupling a high-voltage cable 16 to a utilization device (for example, a high-voltage transformer) feeding or being fed via a bushing 12 or 20. The visible break is closed by an interconnecting h-shaped link member 152'. When the interconnecting link is in place, the circuit between the high-voltage cable 16 and the bushing 12 or 20 is complete and the utilization device (for example, a transformer) is coupled to the high-voltage cable 16. When the interconnecting link is not in place, this fact is clearly visible to those working on and around the high-voltage cable 16 and utilization device to which the bushing 12 or 20 is coupled by the absence of the interconnecting h-shaped link member 152'. When the interconnecting link is not in place, there is no connection between the high-voltage cable 16 on the one hand and the bushing 12 or 20 on the other.

Consequently, Luzzi neither discloses nor suggests claim 1's specifically recited

“distribution device for distributing high magnitude electrical potential from an input port of the distribution device to a plurality of output ports thereof”

nor claim 12's specifically recited

“high magnitude potential supply system including a high magnitude potential supply having an output port at which a high magnitude potential is provided, a high magnitude potential distribution device having an input port and output

ports, utilization devices, the output port of the high magnitude potential supply being coupled to the input port of the distribution device and respective output ports of the distribution device being coupled to respective utilization devices.”

The 35 U. S. C. § 102 rejections of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 12 are thus overcome.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 8-15 under 35 U. S. C. § 103. The Examiner also relied upon Luzzi to support these rejections. Again, however, Luzzi neither discloses nor suggests claim 1’s specifically recited

“distribution device for distributing high magnitude electrical potential from an input port of the distribution device to a plurality of output ports thereof”

nor claim 12’s specifically recited

“high magnitude potential supply system including a high magnitude potential supply having an output port at which a high magnitude potential is provided, a high magnitude potential distribution device having an input port and output ports, utilization devices, the output port of the high magnitude potential supply being coupled to the input port of the distribution device and respective output ports of the distribution device being coupled to respective utilization devices.”

Claims 4 and 8-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are thus entitled to favorable consideration at least on this basis. Claims 13-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 12 and are thus entitled to favorable consideration at least on this basis. The 35 U. S. C. § 103 rejections of claims 4 and 8-15 are thus overcome.

Claim 1 is amended to make clear that high magnitude electrostatic potential is simultaneously supplied from the input port to all of the output ports. This is clearly supported by, among other things, the drawings as originally filed. Claims 3-5 and 7 are cancelled without prejudice and new claims 16-23 are submitted herewith to complete the protection to which Applicants currently believe they are entitled. No new matter is sought to be entered hereby.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration, culminating in allowance of claims 1, 2, 6 and 8-23.

The fee for two independent claims in excess of the three previously paid for is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be due to constitute this a timely response to the November 18, 2005 official action to Applicants' undersigned counsel's deposit account 10-0435 with reference to file number 3030-73043. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Conard", written in a cursive style.

Richard D. Conard
Registration No. 27321
Attorney for Applicants

Indianapolis, Indiana
(317) 231-7285

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